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LDF Publication Draft Consultation, Forward Planning & Implementation

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT			
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Dear Sirs

I am writing to register my objections to Leeds City Council's proposed site allocation on Green Belt areas. In particular those along the already heavily congested A65:  
Gill Lane Yeadon **SITE HG2-10**,  
Land adjacent to Knott Lane and to the rear of Layton Lane Rawdon **Site HG3-2 HG3-3 HG3-4**. Also Site **HG2-41** known as the Strawberry picking fields from Horsforth roundabout to Rawdon Crematorium . Horsforth Campus and Park Lane College Campus **Site HG2-43**.

I believe the developments cannot be justified.  
Under the National Planning Policy Framework, section 9 Protecting Green Belt Land, states that:

The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

- To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another.**
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment**
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns**
- To assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land**

In response to a question asked in Parliament by my local MP Stuart Andrew in February this year, The Housing Minister said:

**'Unmet housing needs should not exceed maintaining the greenbelt, and this is put forward in the National Planning Policy Framework.'**

Development of local Green Belt sites ignores much of the above and is, therefore, inconsistent with national policy.

Your proposals for this area would mean we would permanently lose our Green Belt along with beautiful open views; the rural character and identity of Rawdon village; wildlife habitats; protected mature trees and woodland. You would be removing places for leisure activities, enjoyment and relaxation such as walking, cycling, running and horse-riding. The Leeds Countryside Way runs through HG2-12 and alongside HG3-2 and HG3-3, sites which are part of LCC's own designated Strategic Green Infrastructure Area. How can you justify taking away or destroying any of this when there are enough **Brownfield Sites** available elsewhere across Leeds? Your own Core Strategy says that all these **must** be developed before greenbelt land.

It is also my understanding that LCC has not revised it's housing target in response to Office of National Statistics projections which would mean the city needs 45,000 and not the current target of 70,000. **A reduction of just 15,000 would remove the need to take any land out of green belt.** Your numbers are based on out of date figures and need to be revised and your plans re-worked.

I feel your plans are unsound, you have not given enough thought to alternative sites on available Brownfield land. No amount of road improvements will be able to cope with the increased volume of additional vehicles these huge numbers of proposed houses will put on the A65 and surrounding roads. Site HG2-41 with a school is going to cause gridlock at the ring road, which is already congested for much of the working day.

Finally, I was unaware until now that LCC held a public consultation about their plans in 2013 or that this current public consultation was happening.

Yours faithfully

Brenda May

C.c Rawdon Parish Council